

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 206910 211839Z

P 211833Z OCT 02
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS PRIORITY
CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
SPECIAL EMBASSY PROGRAM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 206910 211839Z
UNCLAS STATE 206910

AIDAC PASS TO USAID/DIRECTORS/REPS;

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: USAID/DCHA OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE'S
GUIDANCE FOR DISASTER PLANNING AND RESPONSE - FY 2003

AMEMBASSY AMBS, AND MISSION DISASTER RELIEF OFFICERS,
JAKARTA PASS TO DILI

REF: (A) STATE 198828 (NOVEMBER 16, 2001); B) ADS 251

SUMMARY

1. SUMMARY: THIS CABLE PROVIDES GENERAL GUIDANCE TO ALL POSTS
CONCERNING SUPPORT FROM USAID'S OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER
ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA/OFDA) BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE
OCCURRENCE OF NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS IN FISCAL YEAR (FY)
2003. THIS CABLE WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED BY MORE DETAILED
GUIDANCE TO BE PROVIDED TO MISSION DISASTER RELIEF OFFICERS
(MDROS). THIS CABLE HAS ALSO BEEN CLEARED BY THE STATE
DEPARTMENT'S M/P (SEP). END SUMMARY.

DCHA/OFDA'S MISSION

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 206910 211839Z

2. DCHA/OFDA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING INTERNATIONAL DISASTER
ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT (USG) RESPONSE TO
DECLARED DISASTERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES. DCHA/OFDA'S MISSION IS
TO MINIMIZE AND WHERE POSSIBLE, PREVENT LOSS OF LIFE, HUMAN
SUFFERING, AND DAMAGE TO ECONOMIC ASSETS IN DISASTER-AFFECTED
COUNTRIES.

WHEN A DISASTER OCCURS

3. THE MDRO: THE MISSION DISASTER RELIEF OFFICER (MDRO) IS THE DESIGNATED OFFICIAL IN EACH U.S. EMBASSY OR USAID MISSION RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING THE POST'S DISASTER RESPONSE EFFORTS. THE MDRO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING AND MAINTAINING THE MISSION DISASTER RELIEF PLAN (MDRP) AND ENSURES THAT MISSION PERSONNEL ARE FAMILIAR WITH ITS CONTENTS; LIAISING WITH GOVERNMENT DISASTER AUTHORITIES ON AN ONGOING BASIS TO ENSURE FAMILIARITY WITH DISASTER RISKS AND ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSE CAPACITIES/ARRANGEMENTS; SERVING AS THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER FOR THE POST'S EMERGENCY ACTION COMMITTEE (EAC) DURING ALL PHASES OF THE DISASTER; AND ACTING AS THE POST'S COORDINATOR OF USG DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS IN-COUNTRY. ONCE A DISASTER OCCURS, THE MDRO SHOULD CONTACT ONE OF DCHA/OFDA'S REGIONAL OFFICES IN THE FIELD OR STAFF IN WASHINGTON (SEE PARAS 7-10) TO PROVIDE ADVANCE WARNING AND TO SEEK ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE.

4. CRITERIA FOR DECLARING A DISASTER: DCHA/OFDA CAN ONLY PROVIDE ASSISTANCE BASED ON A FULLY JUSTIFIED DISASTER DECLARATION CABLE FROM THE U.S. AMBASSADOR AND/OR CHIEF OF MISSION (COM). (FOR COUNTRIES WITHOUT AN OFFICIAL U.S.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 206910 211839Z
DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE APPROPRIATE REGION MAY DECLARE A DISASTER VIA A MEMORANDUM FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO USAID/DCHA/OFDA.) TO DECLARE A DISASTER AND REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM DCHA/OFDA, IT MUST BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THREE CRITERIA HAVE BEEN SATISFIED: 1) THE DISASTER IS BEYOND THE ABILITY OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND; 2) THE HOST GOVERNMENT HAS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED OR INDICATED IT WILL ACCEPT USG ASSISTANCE; AND 3) A DISASTER RESPONSE IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE USG. OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IS A FACTUAL DESCRIPTION OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE DISASTER AND WHY IT IS BEYOND THE ABILITY OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND. THIS REQUIRES INFORMATION REGARDING THE RESPONSE CAPACITY OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT; THE ESTIMATED TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED, INCLUDING KILLED, INJURED, AND/OR DISPLACED/HOMELESS; GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND/OR SCOPE OF THE DISASTER; DAMAGE TO INFRASTRUCTURE, CROPS, AND LIVESTOCK; OTHER DONOR EFFORTS/CONTRIBUTIONS; AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT INFORMATION THAT IS AVAILABLE. THE DISASTER DECLARATION CABLE SHOULD BE PREPARED IN CONSULTATION WITH DCHA/OFDA'S REGIONAL OR WASHINGTON OFFICE. A PROMPT RESPONSE BY DCHA/OFDA WILL BE FACILITATED BY A DISASTER DECLARATION CABLE THAT CLEARLY DESCRIBES THE SCOPE AND SCALE OF THE DISASTER AS WELL AS SATISFYING THE ESTABLISHED CRITERIA.

5. DISASTER ASSISTANCE REQUEST: IN THE DISASTER DECLARATION CABLE, THE U.S. AMBASSADOR OR COM CAN REQUEST UP TO USD 50,000 FOR IMMEDIATE DISASTER RELIEF FROM DCHA/OFDA. THE CABLE MUST PROVIDE A CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF HOW THESE FUNDS WILL BE USED, AND THROUGH WHAT ORGANIZATION THE FUNDS WILL BE CHANNLED. DCHA/OFDA'S REGIONAL AND/OR WASHINGTON OFFICE WILL COORDINATE WITH THE MDRO TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE. DCHA/OFDA FUNDS ARE TO BE USED FOR IMMEDIATE DISASTER RELIEF OR

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 206910 211839Z
REHABILITATION, NOT FOR LONG-TERM RECONSTRUCTION.

6. DCHA/OFDA RESPONSE OPTIONS: IN ADDITION TO RELEASING UP TO USD 50,000 OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE FUNDS, DCHA/OFDA HAS SEVERAL ADDITIONAL OPTIONS FOR PROVIDING DISASTER ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING: DEPLOYMENT OF A USAID/OFDA REGIONAL ADVISOR, AN ASSESSMENT TEAM OR A DISASTER ASSISTANCE RESPONSE TEAM (DART); PROVISION OF RELIEF COMMODITIES FROM DCHA/OFDA STOCKPILES; DISASTER FUNDING OF NGO, AND UNITED NATIONS PROPOSALS BY PROVIDING A FUND CITE TO POST OR PROVIDING THE FUNDS DIRECTLY TO THE ORGANIZATION FROM DCHA/OFDA/WASHINGTON. DCHA/OFDA CAN SUPPORT A WIDE RANGE OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. DCHA/OFDA ALSO MAINTAINS A MILITARY LIAISON UNIT (MLU) TO FACILITATE CIVILIAN-MILITARY ACTIVITIES THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PLANNING, OPERATIONS, AND TRAINING. DCHA/OFDA MAY UTILIZE A COMBINATION OF THESE OPTIONS, OR IT MAY DETERMINE THAT DCHA/OFDA'S ASSISTANCE IS NOT APPROPRIATE OR NEEDED.

REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACTS

7. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: MR. PAUL BELL IS DCHA/OFDA'S SENIOR REGIONAL ADVISOR FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (LAC), LOCATED IN SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA. MR. BELL AND HIS REGIONAL ADVISORS CAN BE REACHED AT 506-296-3554. AN ADDITIONAL LAC REGIONAL ADVISOR, MS. JULIE LEONARD IS BASED IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS AND MAY BE REACHED AT 246-228-8584.

8. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: MR. TOM DOLAN IS DCHA/OFDA'S ASIA AND PACIFIC SENIOR REGIONAL ADVISOR IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES. MR.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 206910 211839Z
DOLAN AND HIS REGIONAL ADVISOR CAN BE REACHED AT 63-2-552-9800/552-9900 EXT. 9884. AN ADDITIONAL ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ADVISOR, MR. WILLIAM BERGER, IS BASED IN KATHMANDU, NEPAL, AND CAN BE REACHED AT 977-1-270-144.

9. AFRICA: MR. PETER RILEY IS DCHA/OFDA'S SENIOR REGIONAL ADVISOR FOR EAST, CENTRAL, AND SOUTHERN AFRICA AND IS BASED IN NAIROBI, KENYA. MR. RILEY AND HIS REGIONAL ADVISORS CAN BE REACHED AT 254-2-862-920.

DCHA/OFDA/WASHINGTON CONTACTS

10. DCHA/OFDA/WASHINGTON: ALL REQUESTS FOR FUNDS, SITUATION REPORTS, AND OTHER INFORMATION, AS WELL AS REQUESTS BY THOSE POSTS NOT COVERED BY ONE OF THE REGIONAL OFFICES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE RESPONSE TEAM LEADER, MICHAEL MARX, OR APPROPRIATE DCHA/OFDA WASHINGTON-BASED REGIONAL COORDINATOR. MR. MARX CAN BE REACHED AT 202-712-0853. MISSIONS/EMBASSIES ALSO MAY CALL DCHA/OFDA AT 202-712-0400 DURING DAYTIME HOURS (0800-1700 HOURS LOCAL TIME) IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AFTER BUSINESS HOURS, EVENINGS, WEEKENDS, AND HOLIDAYS, THE DCHA/OFDA DUTY OFFICER CAN BE CONTACTED BY CALLING THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S OPERATIONS CENTER AT 202-647-1512. DCHA/OFDA'S FAX NUMBERS ARE: 202-216-3706/3707.

11. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
POWELL

UNCLASSIFIED